



NAACP
San Diego Branch

1919
2019

**Civil Rights Sentry
for a Century**

San Diego NAACP
P.O. Box 152086
San Diego, CA 92195-2086

February 21, 2019

Board of Education Office
San Diego Unified School District
4100 Normal Street, Room 2231
San Diego, CA 92103

Dear San Diego Unified School District Board of Education Members,

We are contacting you in regards to an important matter that is of deep concern to us, which pertains to Black History Month. We are aware that the Board of Education of the San Diego Unified School District unanimously adopted a resolution “In the matter of recognizing February 2019 as National Black/African American History month,” on Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Our 1st Vice-President, Ms. Francine Maxwell, was present at this meeting, and spoke about the resolution, prior to its adoption by the board. The matter of the lack of prominence of Black History on the district’s website was brought before the board at that time. Due to the persistence of this lack of prominence, we must again bring this matter to your attention, and encourage the district to do more than simply adopt and approve a resolution, which unfortunately, still remains unreflected on the district’s website.

Upon visiting the district’s website at the beginning of February, and throughout the month, we consistently found no information, or even an acknowledgment that February is Black History month, even following the adoption of the aforementioned resolution, which is truly disheartening. With Black History month now drawing to an end, this is beyond unacceptable. The importance of Black History month to American History simply cannot be overstated, nor can we overstate the harm and detrimental effects to African American children resulting from the lack of acknowledgment, celebration, and respect for their culture. Furthermore, it is simply incomprehensible that the district does not grasp these concepts, or the importance of celebrating diversity, as well as the rich histories and traditions of diverse cultures. On the contrary, the prominence of the celebration of the Lunar New Year on the District’s website, which we support, is evidence that the district fully grasps these concepts. What is perplexing is why those responsible for the content on the district’s website, seem to have been selective in the district’s portrayal of its celebration of the history, culture, and traditions, of some, but not all students. We again encourage the district to do more, to be more inclusive, and to celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and traditions of all of the district’s diverse student population.

We would also like to point out that in contrast to San Diego Unified School District’s website, upon visiting the Poway Unified School District’s website, the first item that we saw on their homepage pertained to Black History month. This item was proudly displayed front and center, and when we